

FACT SHEET



***Hastings Groundwater Contamination Site
Second Street Subsite
Hastings, Nebraska***

April 2000

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will begin a field investigation regarding groundwater contamination at the Second Street Subsite in Hastings, Nebraska. This field investigation will begin the week of April 24, 2000, and will take approximately one week to complete.

BACKGROUND

The Second Street Subsite, part of the Hastings Groundwater Contamination Site in Hastings, Nebraska, is located in the central part of Hastings, on the southeast corner of Second Street and Minnesota Avenue. The subsite is bounded on the south by the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks.

The Second Street Subsite is located on the eastern edge of central downtown area of Hastings. From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, a manufactured gas plant (MGP) operated in this area, producing gas for household heating, cooking, and lighting. As part of this process, by-products (primarily coal tar) were produced and disposed of on-site and now contaminate the soil and ground water. The main contaminants, which are generally found in coal gas wastes, are benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, xylenes (BTEXs), and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Over the years, the contaminants have moved with the groundwater to the east of the subsite. This mass of contaminants in the groundwater is called a plume.

FIELD INVESTIGATION

Representatives for EPA will be conducting field work in this area for approximately one week. The purpose of the field work is to further define the location of the groundwater plume. The areas to be sampled are located east of the Hastings Police Department along Second Street and along the Burlington Northern Railroad Right-of-Way.

Many of the ground water samples will be collected using a Geoprobe®. The Geoprobe® is mounted to a van and pushes three-foot long sections of pipe into the ground to collect soil and ground water samples. After the sampling is completed, the holes will be plugged with a clay mixture. This equipment can be utilized as a substitute for installing ground water monitoring wells. EPA will also have a mobile laboratory onsite to analyze samples.

The sampling should only take about 5 hours at each location. EPA is coordinating the field activities with the city of Hastings engineering department.

EPA will use the information collected to prepare a Feasibility Study to evaluate the effectiveness of a clean-up alternative.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information about the Hastings Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site, please contact either of the following:

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